

In the Claims:

Claims 1-5 (cancelled)

6. (currently amended) A biopsy instrument comprising:

a base assembly comprising a firing mechanism;

a probe assembly detachably mounted to said base, said probe assembly comprising:

a cutter assembly comprising:

a cutter rotatable about its longitudinal axis; and

a piercer assembly comprising:

a piercer having a longitudinal axis and a tissue piercing tip and a side tissue receiving port spaced proximally from the tip, the piercer adapted to be carried distally toward a target by operation of the firing mechanism;

and;

a bevel gear assembly supported by the base and ~~transmission~~ disposed proximally of the piercer, wherein the bevel gear assembly ~~transmission~~ is operable to provide motion of the cutter, wherein the ~~transmission~~ bevel gear assembly receives rotary motion about an axis substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the piercer ~~r angled with respect to the cutter's longitudinal axis.~~

7. (canceled).

8 -13 (canceled)

14. (canceled).

15. (currently amended) The biopsy instrument of Claim 6 ~~14~~ wherein the bevel gear assembly transmission comprises at least two gears ~~one gear~~.

16. (canceled).

17. (currently amended) The biopsy instrument of Claim ~~6-14~~ wherein biopsy instrument receives a rotary motion input from a ~~an~~ input from the separate source of motion through an elongate member.

18. (previously presented) The biopsy instrument of Claim 17 wherein the elongate member comprises a drive cable.

19. (currently amended) The biopsy instrument of Claim 6 ~~14~~ wherein the biopsy instrument receives a first input for translating the cutter from the separate source of motion through a first elongate member, and wherein the biopsy instrument receives a second input for rotating the cutter from the separate source of motion through a second elongate member.

20. (currently amended) The biopsy instrument of Claim 6 ~~14~~ wherein the separate source of motion is disposed in a control unit, and wherein the biopsy instrument receives input from the source of motion through a translation shaft comprising a flexible cable, and from a rotation shaft comprising a flexible cable.